

"SELLS BROS. MILLIONAIRE CONFEDERATION OF STUPENDOUS RAILROAD SHOWS"

The above show opened the season for 1881 in Columbus, Ohio., Apr 25-26 and then moved to Springfield, O., for the 27th, Dayton the 28th and into Indiana to play Indianapolis on the 29th and Terre Haute for the 30th. Then on to St. Louis, Mo., they opened there on May 2nd for one week.

There were two advance cars this season. No.1 with M.C.Allen, Mgr., with nineteen men; and No.2 with C.D. Hammond Mgr., with 12 helpers. The Circus train consisted of 19 flats; 10 stock; 3 elephant cars; 2 box; 4 sleepers, making a total of 38 cars and with the two in advance, total of 40. All rolling stock was owned by Sells Bros.

Menagerie consisted of 36 cages of animals, 14 elephants, 22 camels, Twin Baby Hippopotami, 2 Giraffes, 2 Polar Bears, 2 Woolly Elephants and 6 Performing Colorado Cattle. Seven new cages, 5 new baggage wagons, and a new ticket wagon, new calliope, and eight new cars had been added during the Winter season.

The Canvas was all new. The Big Top consisted of a 150' round with two 50' middle pieces. Menagerie was a 100' round with 7-20' middles. All property as listed was owned by Sells Bros., and all privileges were owned and managed by them also. What Circus Historian or Collector would not like to wake up and find this circus waiting for him?

Bachelor & Doris' Inter-Ocean Circus played Allentown, Pa., May 21st, 1881, later playing Jamestown, N.Y., on June 30th.

W.C. Coup's Show played Ithaca, N.Y., August 17th, 1881.

Van Amburg & Frost's Menagerie played Mansfield, O., October 19th, 1881. and Westerly, R.I., on October 24th.

BURR ROBBINS & COLVIN'S GREAT AMERICAN AND GERMAN ALLIED SHOWS.

Season 1881.

The show with this imposing title was organized in Janesville, Wisc., with Col. Burr Robbins as General Director, and E.D. Colvin, Manager; L.B. Lent, Gen. Agent; Col. Robt. Filkins, Gen-Advtg-Agent; T.C. Kimball Contracting agent; Morris Connor in charge of Car No.1 with 15 billposters and lithographers; Frank McKee general Press Agent in Charge of Car No.2 with 10 billposters; one lime-light artist(?); one soap-decorator (?) and three fence-decorators; M.A. Aldridge Press agent with show; Den Stone Equestrian-Director.

Performers included among many were the following; Chas W. Fish; Mmme Martha; Miss Ellen Cook; a troupe of Iroquois Indians and Prof. White's Dog Circus. Prof. Dowd- Strong Man; Herr Neygaard's Troupe of performing Stallions; Molock - Giant Horse; Spencer Deleran - Boss Hostler; with Wm Scott and 30 assistants; Thos Fay in charge of canvas with Paul Bare and 25 assistants; C.A. Hutchinson Master of Transportation with 15 assistants; Wm Wallace in charge of Menagerie; Prof. Gibler's Band of 15 pieces; Prof. Robt. Goin's Colored Alabama Brass Band; Menagerie consisted of 25 cages of animals; 10 elephants; and a number of camels and dromedaries. The parade consisted of 6 new Tableau cars the Melchor Orchestra, musical chariot, three open dens of hyenas, lions and tigers; 25 mounted people; 3 Brass Bands of music; 2 pony teams; 10 mounted knights of Palestine; and all the cages led by Chas W. Fish driving his three horses tandem to his newly-imported English dog-cars. The Show travelled by rail on a train of 25 - 50ft cars, made express for this circus. They also had two new advertising cars as above. The show exhibited in Monee, Ill., May 2, Kaukakee 3rd; thence to Clinton for the 4th and Springfield on the 5th. Will any old-timers who can give us any information on this show please write to the Secretary or myself. What collectors have any items or photos of this circus?

The enclosed "Special Courtesy Passes" of the Terrel Jacobs Wild Animal Circus - are sent with the compliments of Mr. Jacobs, to C.H.S. Members. He kindly donated these when his circus was again visited at Toronto, Canada - at the FAIR FOR BRITAIN, by your President and Secretary.



